

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-34 are active. Claims 2, 4, 11 and 13 are canceled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 15, 16, 19, 22 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Spirig '351. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 25-28, 33 and 34 are allowed and that claims 7-8, 14, 17, 18 20 and 23 are deemed to contain allowable subject matter.

Amended claims 1, 29, 30, 31 and 32 are presented for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Amended claim 1 calls for:

the fingers being arranged so that at least one locking element can pass through the chamber and through both said top and bottom openings in the same insertion direction

Spirig neither discloses or suggests this structure. The locking element of the shackle, such as element 106, Figs. 7, 8 and 8a, can pass through both the top and bottom openings of the claimed body and through the chamber in which the fingers are located. This permits the shackle to be tightened against an item being secured so that a selected locking element on the shackle engages a corresponding finger in a locking mode.

Spirig's shackle can not be passed through both the top and bottom openings and through the body chamber as claimed. Reference is made to the enclosed attached enlarged portion of Spirig's Figs. 1 and 2 and as marked in red ink. The Spirig shackle 3 has a forward edge E marked in red ink. This edge E will engage the tongues (the so called fingers) 11' and 12' as marked in red ink. The position and orientation of the tongues 11' and 12' is such as to extend inclined across the chamber C. In this position of the tongues 11' and 12', the chamber passageway is blocked in direction D

such that the shackle edge E can not pass these tongues so as to exit the chamber opening O as marked in red ink. Therefore the shackle 3 edge can be inserted only as far into the chamber C as the region R between the fingers 11, 12 and 11', 12'. Spirig's arrangement is to permit one of the shackle ends to be inserted partially into the chamber and become locked in place by one set of tongues 11, 12 and prevent it from passing entirely through the chamber by the other tongues 11', 12' and vice versa. In this way the other end of the shackle 3 can be inserted into the chamber through the other opening on the other side of the chamber and be locked to the remaining free tongues 11' 12'.

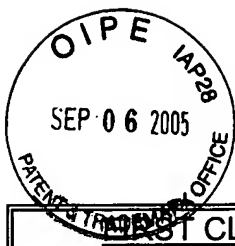
Claim 1 is different. The shackle and the locking elements can be passed freely through the chamber and past the fingers to any extent as desired through either of the openings to the chamber and to the fingers. Amended claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 29-32 contain similar structure as amended claim 1 discussed above and are believed allowable for similar reasons.

The remaining claims depend from allowable independent claim 1, include all of the structure therein and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Since claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-34 have been shown to be in proper form for allowance such action is respectfully requested.

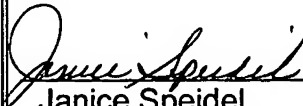
A separate letter is enclosed showing the calculation of the fee for the added claims. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$800 to cover the four added independent claims. The Commissioner is authorized to respectively charge or credit deposit account 03 0678 for any under or overpayments in connection with this paper.



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